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the corner of Fourth and Cheney Streets, instead of Fourth and Cherry Streets, Philadelphia. He has compiled a serviceable index and thus opened his book to good repute. It might seem, now, when Franklin has been dead over a hundred years, and the bi-centennial of his birth is drawing near, that nothing new could be said of him. Yet new material continues to come to light. Since Mr. Ford's MS. went to the *Century*, there have been discovered "certain of the correspondence between Benjamin Franklin and his relatives, together with abstracts of church records, and a pedigree chart prepared by Franklin himself, connected with the researches he was making into his family ancestry while sojourning in England as the agent of the Province of Pennsylvania." This highly interesting material has been edited by Mr. John W. Jordan, the editor of the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, and reprinted by him from the magazine for April, 1899. Coming to light, as it did, while Mr. Ford was sending forth his charming serial, it adds to the interest of his theme and throws light on one side of Dr. Franklin of which no one suspected the existence. It is regretted that some part of this new matter could not have been inserted by Mr. Ford in his book. Considering *The Many-Sided Franklin* as a contribution to the bibliography of the man, now so vast, it is pleasing to be able to say that Mr. Ford has written a book which cannot fail to interest all students of human nature, all lovers of Franklin, all persons fond of investigating eighteenth-century men and manners, and all who, deeply versed in Franklin's life and writings, appreciate the authenticity and realism of an historical study.

FRANCIS NEWTON THORPE.

*The Growth of the Federal Constitution in the Convention of 1787.*

By WILLIAM M. MEIGS. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1899. Pp. 374.)

To the many accounts of the work of the Federal Convention at our disposal Mr. Meigs has added another which from the convenience and helpfulness of its method in the presentation of the material deserves prompt recognition as one of the most useful and instructive of the books devoted to this theme. As a mere labor-saving device its value is not easily overstated. Instead of simply paraphrasing and condensing Madison's Notes, Mr. Meigs has carefully traced the development of each clause, with a brief summary of the discussions of it, from the earliest suggestions through all its transformations until it takes its place at last in the completed constitution. Or, in other words, he has arranged our records of the debates in the order of the topics in the text of the Constitution and compressed them to perhaps one-third their present length mainly by the omission of unessentials. It is now possible to read in two or three minutes the outline of the history in the Convention of any provision in the Constitution and with the help of the dates to follow the details of the discussion in Madison's Notes with almost equal readiness. So far as I have tested the work it seems to have been done very thoroughly and accurately.

Mr. Meigs, however, has not merely rendered old material doubly available for our instruction by a fresh analysis and a rearrangement of it, but he has identified an important missing link in the records of the Convention and so has, in effect, brought new material to light. Mr. Bancroft, in describing the labors of the Committee of Detail (consisting of Rutledge, Randolph, Gorham, Ellsworth, and Wilson) appointed July 24, to draft a constitution on the lines laid down in the twenty-three resolutions referred to them July 26, wrote: "There is neither record nor personal narrative of their proceedings." In 1887 or there-about, Mr. Moncure D. Conway found among the papers of George Mason a draft of a constitution in Randolph's writing of which he published an account with extracts in *Scribner's Magazine* in September 1887 and also in his *Edmund Randolph*. This draft Mr. Conway believed Randolph to have drawn up before the meeting of the Convention and later to have used in the sessions of the Committee of Detail. This document is now in the hands of Mrs. St. George Tucker Campbell of Philadelphia, a great-granddaughter of George Mason, and with her permission a facsimile of it is given in this volume. In a critical appendix Mr. Meigs proves beyond a doubt that this document is an outline draft prepared by Randolph *on the basis* of the twenty-three resolutions for the Committee of Detail to use as foundation of their draft. The identification is so clear that one wonders that Mr. Conway could have missed it, and by it Mr. Meigs places in our hands one of the most important documents of the Convention. How this draft came to be in the possession of George Mason is unknown. Mr. Meigs conjectures that Mason may have inspired it in some measure. He also tells us that a similar draft in the handwriting of James Wilson, but much more nearly corresponding to the final draft of the Committee, is preserved among the Wilson papers in the collections of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. This like the Randolph draft contains marginal notes in the hand of Rutledge, the chairman of the committee. It would, I think, have been a material addition to his work if Mr. Meigs had printed both these drafts in their order among his documents between the twenty-three resolutions and the report of the Committee. Randolph's hand, though very legible, is painfully fine and, as Mr. Meigs constantly refers to this Randolph draft in the body of his work when following up the history of the separate clauses, it would be a great convenience to be able to refer to the text of it as easily as one can to the other documents.

EDWARD G. BOURNE.

*Salmon Portland Chase.* By ALBERT BUSHNELL HART. [American Statesmen Series.] (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Co. 1899. Pp. ix, 465.)

THE author tells us in his preface that it is less the purpose of this book to give a detailed account of Mr. Chase's life than to present him as the central figure in three historic episodes: the Western political anti-slavery movement, the financial measures of the Civil War, and the